

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER

UNDER THE SANCTION OF

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Vol. 20, No. 6.

NOVEMBER 1, 1876.

{ Price 3^d. Stamped.
Three pence Unstamped.

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THE NEMESIS OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.

THE atrocities committed in the Christian provinces of the Ottoman Empire are beginning to direct public attention to the grinding oppression which is chronic under Turkish rule, and it may now be opportune to call to mind that Turkey, including Egypt, is "the principal cause of the ruin of Central Africa, and the loss of a very large part of that vast continent to the world." The demand for slaves in the Ottoman Empire necessarily implies a condition of morality which allows of habitual deception, of corrupt administration, and of unbridled lust. From no sense of shame, but solely from motives of policy, the public sale of slaves is prohibited in each of the two countries; but in Constantinople and Cairo, as well as in other cities of the Empire, there are marts, kept secret from the English and Americans, but which are well known to all natives whom it may concern, in which a constant and ample supply of men, women, and children is kept up. We give, in another page, extracts from a cor-

respondent, describing a visit to one of these marts in Cairo. The dishonesty of Ottoman professions may be proved, for example, from official documents. In acknowledging a memorial presented to the late Sultan, by an international conference of the English, French, Spanish, and American Anti-Slavery Societies, held in Paris, Fuad Pasha wrote:—"I do not hesitate to say, Sir, that you defend a principle to which the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan adheres with its whole heart. Slavery is an institution which has disappeared little by little from the greater portion of the civilised world. It was also abolished in Turkey from the day that the first beams of civilization penetrated into that country, and it tends more and more to disappear from our customs," &c. The reader might infer that this cordial acceptance of the anti-slavery principle would have led to some beneficial result. Not at all. Including the Sultan and the Khedive, all classes of officials and all persons of influential position, down to those whose poverty alone prevents the purchase of a

slave, all maintain the domestic institution of slavery. This domestic institution creates an enormous demand for fresh importation; for "the climate of Turkey and Egypt does not suit the negro race, and slaves rapidly waste away." Moreover, the negro does not increase in Turkey, according to his usual habit, as in Jamaica, &c. Hence, if the supply was to cease "slavery would abolish itself in a very few years." In spite of the most solemn promises, the trade continues throughout Turkey and Egypt, and was never so active as now in the Red Sea, where it is aided by the steamers of the Sultan and the Khedive. Turkish customs derive revenue from the trade. Turkish and Egyptian officials share in the shameful profits.

For ages, slavery—the slave-trade—the corruption of administration—the reduction of subject peoples almost to the condition and the misery and suffering of slaves; the utter impossibility of procuring justice and protection; the dishonour of women and children;—these, with other causes that might be named, are bringing on with rapid strides the dissolution of the Empire—an Empire sinking beneath the burden of its own incurable vices. And when we think of the immense mischiefs it has wrought—of the misery and cruelty it will not, or cannot prevent—of the desolation of Central Africa—of the bleached bones which point out the slave route to the sea-coast—when we think of the 500,000 Africans which perish annually through the slave-trade, we cannot but hail its dissolution with a sense of relief; and, for the sake of humanity, feel grateful that the beginning of the end has come, and the Nemesis of oppressed peoples, and of central Africa, has begun on the Ottoman Empire.

"Doomed to perish—write that word
In the blood that she has spilt—
Perish, hated and abhorred,
Deep in ruin as in guilt."

MR. STANLEY'S ATTACK ON THE NATIVES OF BAMBIREH.

THE following memorial has been addressed to the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

My Lord,—On behalf of the Committees of the Aborigines' Protection and Anti-

Slavery Societies, we beg respectfully to call your lordship's attention to certain proceedings of Mr. Stanley, the African traveller, at Bambireh Island, on Lake Victoria, Nyanza, which are detailed in two letters written by him, dated respectively July 29th, 1875, and August 15th, 1875, and published in the *Daily Telegraph* on August 7th and 10th of the present year.

2. From these letters it appears that when Mr. Stanley arrived at Bambireh the natives dragged his boat ashore, and assumed an attitude so hostile that he apprehended serious consequences to himself and to his party. We do not wish to depreciate the gravity of the danger to which he may have been exposed from his unexpected appearance in the midst of a community of savages, but we cannot forbear to remark that many distinguished African travellers have passed through scenes far more turbulent and perilous, without sustaining greater injury than a brief, although disagreeable, detention, and the loss of a few goods. Mr. Stanley, according to his own account, was able to get off his boat and resume his voyage without having suffered any of the dreadful things which he supposed it was the intention of the natives to inflict upon him.

3. Mr. Stanley lost no time in severely punishing the people of Bambireh for their unfriendly conduct; and as we have no desire even to appear to exaggerate, we subjoin, for your lordship's information, his own account of what took place. He says—"As soon as I saw the savages had arrived in the presence of Shekka with our drum, I shouted to my men to push the boat into the water. With one desperate effort my crew of eleven hands lifted and shot it far into the lake, the impetus they had given it causing it to drag them all into deep water. In the meantime the savages, uttering a furious howl of disappointment and baffled rage, came rushing like a whirlwind towards their canoes at the water's edge. I discharged my elephant rifle, with its two large conical balls, into their midst; and then, assisting one of the crew into the boat, told him to help his fellows in while I continued to fight. My double-barrelled shot gun, loaded with buck-shot, was next discharged with terrible effect, for, without drawing a single bow or launching a single spear, they fell back up the slope of the hill, leaving us to exert our wits to get our-

selves out of the cove before the enemy should decide to man their canoes. My crew was composed of picked men, and in this dire emergency they did ample justice to my choice. Though we were without oars, they were at no loss for a substitute. As soon as they found themselves in the boat they tore up the seats and footboards, and began to paddle, while I was left to single out with my rifles the most prominent and boldest of the enemy. Twice in succession I succeeded in dropping men determined on launching the canoes, and seeing the sub-chief, who had commanded the party that took the drum, I took deliberate aim with my elephant rifle at him. That bullet, as I have since been told, killed the chief and two others who happened to be standing a few paces behind him; and the extraordinary result had more effect, I think, on the superstitious minds of the natives than all previous or subsequent shots. On getting out of the cove we saw two canoes loaded with men coming out in pursuit from another small inlet. I permitted them to approach within 100 yards of us, and this time I used the elephant rifle with explosive balls. Four shots killed five men and sank the canoes. This decisive affair disheartened the enemy, and we were left to pursue our way unmolested, not, however, without hearing a ringing voice shouting out to us, 'Go and die in the Nyanza.' When the savages counted their losses, they found fourteen dead and wounded with ball and buckshot, which although I should consider to be very dear payment for the robbery of eight ash oars and a drum, was barely equivalent, in fair estimation, to the intended massacre of ourselves."

4. Mr. Stanley's narrative contains no evidence to justify the belief that the savages intended to massacre his party; but even if his surmise were proved to be correct, we venture submit that the murderous acts of retaliation he committed were unworthy of a man who went to Africa professedly as a pioneer of civilization. Explosive bullets are prohibited in civilised warfare; but Mr. Stanley did not hesitate to use them at Bambireh.

5. Mr. Stanley, having proceeded on his voyage, describes himself a few days later as feeling "grateful to Providence, and kindly disposed to all men." Yet, although

thus charitably moved, he meditated the infliction of further and still more sanguinary reprisals on the natives. In the first place, however, he despatched a message to them to the effect that if they delivered their king and the two principals under him to his hands, he would make peace with them, but they refused to be guilty of this act of treachery to their chief. Nevertheless, by putting the king of Iroba and three of his chiefs in chains, and making their release conditional on the capture of the King of Bambireh, Mr. Stanley induced the men of Iroba to lay hands on that chief, and to bring him to the traveller, by whom he was "at once chained heavily."

6. This, however, was not enough. Mr. Stanley determined to make war on Bambireh itself, and accordingly he organized a force of 280 men, 50 musketeers with 230 spearmen, who were placed in a fleet of 18 canoes. The details of the attack are thus described in his own words:—

"The enemy, perceiving my intention to disembark, rose from their coverts, and ran along the hills to meet us, which was precisely what I wished they would do, and accordingly I ordered my force to paddle slowly so as to give them time. In half an hour the savages were all assembled in knots and groups, and after approaching within 100 yards of the beach I formed my line of battle, the American and English flags waving as our ensigns. Having anchored each canoe so as to turn its broadside to the shore, I ordered a volley to be fired at one group, which numbered about 50, and the result was several killed and many wounded. The savages, perceiving our aim, and the danger of standing together, separated themselves, and advanced to the water's edge, slinging stones and shooting arrows. I then ordered the canoes to advance within 50 yards of the shore, and to fire at close quarters. After an hour the savages saw that they could not defend themselves, and retreated up the slope, where they continued still exposed to our bullets. I then caused the canoes to come together, and told them to advance in a body to the beach, as if about to disembark. This caused the enemy to make an effort to repulse our landing, and, accordingly, hundreds came down with their spears ready on the launch. When they were close enough, the bugle sounded a halt, and another volley was

fired into the spearmen, which had such a disastrous effect that they retired far away, and our work of chastisement was consummated. Not many cartridges were fired, but as the savages were so exposed, on a slope covered with only short grass, and as the sun in the afternoon was directly behind us and in their faces, their loss was great. Forty-two were counted on the field, lying dead, and over a hundred were seen to retire wounded, while on our side only two men suffered contusions from stones slung at us."

7. We respectfully submit to your lordship that the destruction of the forty-two human beings who were struck dead by Mr. Stanley's bullets, together with the probable death of many of the hundred or more who received agonizing wounds from explosive bullets, was an act of blind and ruthless vengeance, which calls for severe animadversion if not for stronger measures on the part of her Majesty's Government. Your lordship will observe that Mr. Stanley was not called upon to return to Bambireh in the performance of any of the legitimate duties of his mission. He returned there solely from motives of revenge; and in order to gratify that feeling he fired upon a defenceless mob of Africans who, according to his own account, had subjected him to no positive injury. It therefore follows, that whatever excuse may be made for the first attack, the second deserves to be stigmatised as a massacre. We shall look with dismay upon the future of the African continent if exploration is hereafter to be conducted on principles so entirely at variance with the practice of Livingstone and Speke, and of every other explorer of renown. Moreover, we think there is too much reason to fear that hereafter some innocent traveller or pioneer of commercial enterprise will suffer for Mr. Stanley's sanguinary deeds at Bambireh. On account of such persons, as well as for the sake of humanity, we ask for your lordship's interference.

8. We do not know whether Mr. Stanley is an American or a British subject, but we are informed that he is a native of this country, and it is of course, notorious that he has gone to Africa as the representative of an enterprising English journal. Your lordship will also perceive that Mr. Stanley hoisted the English flag, an act which pre-

supposes complicity on our part with his sinister proceedings, and therefore appears to us imperatively to call for an official repudiation of his claim to be regarded as a representative of England.

9. In conclusion, we beg to enclose for your lordship's further consideration, a copy of letter which has been addressed to the Aborigines' Protection Society by the Rev. J. F. Splaine, of the Society of Jesus, and also to express an earnest hope that Great Britain will take steps to prevent the recurrence of acts calculated to inflict irreparable injury upon the cause of African civilisation.

We have the honour to remain,

Your lordship's obedient Servants,
(Signed on behalf of the two Societies.) CHARLES J. WINGFIELD (K.C.S.I.),
JOSEPH COOPER,
R. N. FOWLER,
EDMUND STURGE,
A. BUZACOTT,
F. W. CHESSON.

*King Street, Westminster,
September, 1876.*

The following reply has been received from the Secretary of State:—

Foreign Office, October 21st, 1876.

SIR,—The Earl of Derby has received and has given his careful consideration to the memorial from the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines' Protection Societies, which was enclosed in your letter of the 28th ultimo, relative to the proceedings of Mr. Stanley in the interior of Africa. His lordship has read, with great regret, reports of the circumstances which seem to have taken place in connection with that traveller's explorations, and which have created such a painful impression in this country.

It is, however, impossible for his lordship to take any direct action in the matter, inasmuch as, Mr. Stanley not being a British subject, her Majesty's Government have no authority over him; but his lordship cannot but hope, looking to the character which Mr. Stanley has won in this country by his expedition in search of Dr. Livingstone, that he may eventually be able to afford some explanation or justification of his proceedings, which is not apparent from the reports which have been as yet received.

I am to add that Mr. Stanley has no authority to hoist the British flag, and that

Lord Derby will cause her Majesty's Consuls on the East Coast of Africa to be instructed to intimate this to him, if any opportunity of communicating with him should be open to them. In the meanwhile, his lordship will forward copies of this correspondence to the United States Minister in London, in order that he may be aware of the feeling which the reports of Mr. Stanley's proceedings have aroused.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

F. W. Chesson, Esq.,

Secretary of the

Aborigines' Protection Society.

THE PALL MALL ON MR. STANLEY'S PROCEEDINGS.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the attention of the Government has been called to Mr. Stanley's proceedings in Central Africa, and that steps will be taken to repudiate the apparent responsibility which that "pioneer of civilisation" has, in a wholly-unauthorised manner, contrived to fix upon this country. A memorial has been addressed to Lord Derby on this subject by the Committees of the Aborigines' Protection and Anti-Slavery Societies, and the official answer to it has been just published. Considering the manner in which his doings are regarded in this country, it is as well that Mr. Stanley's audacious assumption of an English mission should be at once put a stop to.

MISRULE IN THE MAURITIUS.

A CORRESPONDENT asks "What have been the results of the Royal Commission appointed three years ago to inquire into the condition of the coolies in the Mauritius?"

Perhaps the following extract from a letter recently received will supply the best answer to the question:—"The delay in taking action on the Report of the Royal Commission, which pronounced the most emphatic condemnation of the existing abuses, has created the impression here that the Home Government is indifferent, and that the coolies may continue to be ill-treated and oppressed as heretofore. The police carry on their old practices with impunity—the condition of the coolies is as bad as ever."

In fact the Colonial Office would appear to have, or at least to exercise, as little executive power for the protection of Her Majesty's Indian subjects in this unhappy colony, as is possessed by the Porte in the remote provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

GOOD NEWS FROM MADAGASCAR.

OUR readers will doubtless remember that, in 1865, a treaty was concluded between the Queen of Madagascar and Great Britain and other foreign powers, for the purpose of abolishing the importation of slaves from the Mozambique coast into the island. The Queen may have been willing enough to carry out the treaty, but some of her principal subjects were unwilling to relinquish their dealings with the slavers, while a great reach of coast line was beyond the control of the central Government. The result was the treaty was not carried out; and last year a gang of newly-imported slaves was secretly offered for sale in the capital itself. These were discovered by some of the missionaries who at once informed the Government, and at the same time reported what they had done to J. C. Pakenham, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, resident at Tamatave. We never knew what became of these. This was followed on the part of the above-named missionaries by a well-written tract, which was widely circulated, on the horrors of the slave-trade, and the different treaties entered into between the British and Malagasy Governments with the object of suppressing it. These and other circumstances created a large amount of uneasiness in the native mind on the subject of slavery. This was much increased by a rumour that an English Admiral was about to visit the capital with the intention of demanding from the Government an earnest fulfilment of treaty obligations. It is not easy for us, in this country, to understand the fears and anxieties of the natives in relation to the Admiral's visit. All sorts of rumours were circulated, such as that England would, by force, not only abolish the foreign trade, but also set free all the domestic slaves in the island.

It was when the excitement on this subject was at its height that our friend Mr. Sewell, who had laboured as a missionary in the island for about nine years, was about to take his departure. He had long felt that he could not do this with an easy conscience until he had placed before the minds of the native Christians, in a plainer and more public manner than had yet been done, the incompatibility of Christianity with slavery. He therefore requested to be permitted to deliver the address at the monthly prayer meeting at the capital, held

a few days before his departure. For good reasons he preserved the greatest secrecy with regard to the subject of the address he intended to deliver. As it was understood throughout the town that it would be Mr. Sewell's farewell address, the church was crowded, not less than a thousand persons, including most of the native pastors, being present. The result was immense excitement throughout the capital, with grave rumours of an intention on the part of the slave population to rebel and obtain their freedom. The native pastors were summoned to the palace to give a reliable account of what had been said, for the wildest rumours were afloat. The Prime Minister sent them to our friend to inquire concerning his motive, and also to obtain, if possible, a copy of his address. Mr. Sewell at once responded to the Prime Minister's wishes, stated his motives, and sent to him the paper he had read. In the evening of the same day the Prime Minister, together with all the chief officers of the Government, &c., heard the address read.

Mr. Sewell had been very careful whilst drawing up his address to say nothing that could legitimately give offence to the native government. He had abstained from any allusion to political matters. His words were to the really Christian portion of the community, and his arguments could only be thoroughly appreciated by such. After hearing the paper read, the Prime Minister could find nothing to lay hold of in it. What he said to the pastors and others present was to the effect that Mr. Sewell had been giving good advice which it was quite within his province to do, and that it must be their business to stay the false rumours that were afloat.

The next day was one on which people from all parts of the Queen's dominions had been summoned to hear a proclamation from her on the reorganisation of the native army. But before the proclamation was delivered the Prime Minister spoke very strongly on the subject of slavery. It was to the effect that the Queen was living in friendship with her friends beyond the sea. She had made a treaty with them that her subjects should on no account purchase slaves from abroad; this she was resolved should be kept by them, and those purchased since the treaty was made were to be set free. But she

had made no treaty binding her to abolish slavery in the island, and she did not alter the laws of her country on that subject. And all those who circulated reports to the effect that the slaves were to be set free were the enemies of the country, and only desired to cause bloodshed and ruin. At the same time, if any wished to liberate their slaves from motives of compassion they were perfectly at liberty to do so. Her ancestors had always granted that liberty, and she did not change.

Our readers will be delighted with this decisive public utterance on slavery in Antananarivo, and not the less that this public utterance came, as has so often been the case, from one of the Society of Friends. It was a bold procedure, but the direction of it was most prudent. No appeal to the masses, no protest to the Government, but simply an earnest appeal to the consciences and hearts of professing Christians. Beyond question this is the best method—indeed perhaps the only method—of obtaining freedom for the enslaved in Madagascar. The appeal is to the Christian conscience. There let it be, and the heaven will work, perhaps slowly at first, but the day of freedom shall yet break in splendour on this magnificent island. A great blot on a Christian profession will be removed. We cannot refrain the expression of our thankfulness and joy, that this decisive word has been spoken, and spoken so wisely. May God give freedom to His captive children in Madagascar!

THE KHEDEVE'S PERSONAL COMPLICITY WITH THE SLAVE-TRADE.

It is so persistently asserted by military men who have served under the Egyptian Government, that the great object in seeking to extend the rule of Egypt towards the Equator is to destroy the slave-trade, that some people may be led to believe this statement. Nothing could be further from the truth, as we have often shown by many a fact. We are glad to insert an extract from a letter of Dr. G. P. Badger to the *Times* (Oct. 17th), in which the personal complicity of the Khedive with the slave-trade is again placed beyond question. The Khedive is as deeply involved as any Sove-

reign in the world in slavery and the trade in slaves, and in the cruel system of unpaid forced labour. Dr. Badger writes:—

"With regard to the slave-trade I am unable to say how far Captain M'Killop's statements respecting the conduct of the Sultan's Governor at Kismayo are authentic; but this I do know, on the most trustworthy information, that during their occupation of Brava the Egyptians suffered several bug-galows to leave that place laden with slaves. The Sultan of Zanzibar, to his own great pecuniary loss, has proved his fidelity to the treaty for abolishing the transport of slaves by sea. Much more, he has, *motu proprio*, declared the traffic illegal on the mainland likewise. But what of the Khedive? Is it not notorious that His Highness still permits his ships to transport slaves in the Red Sea? And that the traffic is sanctioned within his new annexations of Berbera and Zaila is patent from the facts officially reported from Aden, that Abu-Bekr, the old Dankali chief, was recently conveyed to Suez in one of His Highness's steamers, carrying with him as a present ten slave boys (eunuchs), and ten of the best procurable slave girls from Abyssinia. These, it is further reported, were 'presented by the Amir to the Khedive, who treated Abu-Bekr with great honour, conferring on him the title of Pasha, and appointing him Governor of Zaila.'"

SLAVE MARTS IN CAIRO.

WE quote the following extracts from the letter of an Egyptian correspondent, as supplying an illustration of the ease with which slaves may be sold in the capital of the Khedive. It is obvious that there is no conviction of the guilt of the slave-trade, though there is a resolute determination to keep the trade hidden from the eyes of Englishmen:—

"I said to him" (a Coptic clerk): "'Could not one of you, who knows the city thoroughly, go with me to-morrow morning to some of the slave-pens of Cairo? I have been here about three years without seeing them; and if any one asks me about them I should like to give him more than mere hearsay.' Happily my Coptic friend was communicative. The trade in white slaves ('fancy girls') is in the hands of Turks, and of this he professed very little knowledge;

but with the trade in blacks he was quite familiar. They are now seldom brought in large companies to Cairo, but they are brought so from the Soudan to Ossioot and other places up the river. From these points from one to five at a time are brought to Cairo on grain-boats and other vessels. If any questions are asked, the captains, with a little bucksheesh to confirm their story, can easily pass so small a number of supernumeraries as wives, children, servants, or sailors. From Boulac, the port of Cairo, these slaves are retailed, as there may be opportunity, to persons who require their services. If the vessel must move before such opportunity occurs, they are sold to a dealer, who buys cheaper than the retail purchaser. My friend told me that he had a number of black slaves, but said he had allowed them to marry, and had given them free papers; that their service with him was voluntary; and in the event of his death they would be safe from the claims of heirs and creditors. It is common for Egyptians—who know that almost all Christendom oppose the institution—to make such apologies to Frank acquaintances; but in this case I believe the statement was correct. The white slave women he reckoned as worth a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars each; but a common black slave of either sex can be bought from the dealers for prices ranging from seventy-five to a hundred-and-fifty dollars. Of course, when they have been kept to a service till they are skilled in some particular employment, they are much more valuable. This conversation had the usual effect—it increased my curiosity, and strengthened the determination to see a Cairo slave-pen if possible. To accomplish my purpose I made application to another native friend. He said: 'No; I am too well known. But I will lend you my coat, and you will pass for a Levantine; and there is a young man here can show you round. That coat of yours looks too English.' We exchanged coats, the young man and I mounted donkeys, and in ten minutes we had left for the Frank quarters, and were winding our way through the narrow, crooked, dark, dirty streets of a thoroughly Arab neighbourhood. Suddenly my companion called a halt, and said one of the buildings we had just passed was sometimes used for a pen, and he would inquire if they had a stock at present. He came to me in

a minute, and told me if the dealer pressed any of his women on me I must object that they were too old—that my wife wanted a girl young enough to be trained to take intelligent care of the children. This was his plan for us to get away without revealing the real nature of our business. Entering the court of the building, we were met by a dirty but rather polite Arab, who conducted us upstairs for a look at his property. In our way up we passed, at one of the landings, four or five young men and boys, who seemed no way remarkable except for blackness, dirtiness, and scantiness of clothing. A little further on we were shown four young women. It would be hard to tell their ages with much precision, but they were probably between eighteen and twenty-five. They were very black, were said to be from the Soudan, and evidently knew very little Arabic. They were manifestly savages, appeared to be from different tribes, and probably in their ordinary costume. Except some slight covering for the head, and some glass beads on the necks and wrists, each wore only a single ragged garment; two wore the radiating headgear described by Dr. Livingstone. Though we at once objected to all of them as too old, and asked for a girl of twelve or fifteen, the dealer still insisted that we should see them all, and called them from the rather dark little room in which they were huddled to the light for our closer inspection. . . . With one exception, all seemed stupid and quite indifferent to the rough and brutal handling of the dealer. We, too, were offered an opportunity to inspect the soundness of their teeth, the firmness of their flesh, &c.; but we declined. Though we could have had our choice of the lot for about a hundred dollars, we persisted in our objection. When we got out my guide offered to show me other places; but I assured him I had seen enough, unless he could show me the white girls also. He said he could not—and, indeed, that was a thing he had not undertaken. Some of the preceding details are disgusting; but how else can a resident of this country protest against the flattery which the European press is constantly lavishing on the 'present enlightened ruler of Egypt'? A decent regard for truth leads me to write this for the better information of those who, on Oriental subjects, are often served with a repetition of nonsense. The

Viceroy professes a wish to break up the slave-trade, and says that he is mainly hindered by rascally foreigners; yet these things which I have detailed are done in his own capital."

Some months afterwards the writer visited Ossioot, when he had an opportunity of seeing part of the "Zellaba," or caravan, which came every spring from the interior to Ossioot, with slaves and other merchandise. "We made," he says, "some inquiries about price; but the masters did not appear to care about selling the women; and my companions told me they had few chances, as boys and girls not fully grown were much preferred in the Ossioot market. Of boys and girls we saw more than forty. The boys, we were told, could be had for a hundred dollars; the girls for seventy-five a-piece. Perhaps few of them were under eight years of age, and scarcely any over twelve. Those a few years older had been already sold for higher prices."

COMMANDER CAMERON ON THE MASSACRES OF THE SLAVE- TRADE, AND ON FORCED LABOUR IN EGYPT.

At the recent meeting of the British Association, at Glasgow, the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society read a paper on the Present Extent of Slavery and the Slave-Trade, with a reference to the progress of abolition since the close of the American War. This paper was well received, and its publication and wide circulation was warmly pressed. This has been done and copies may be had at the Society's offices. It was on the occasion of its delivery at Glasgow that Commander Cameron uttered the following observations:—

Commander CAMERON (who was cheered on rising) said that, in his recent travels in Africa, he had seen a good deal of the operation of the slave-trade, and his observations enabled him to corroborate the reader of the paper in his statement as to the system of massacre and bloodshed with which it was carried on. To say nothing of the overcrowding of the dhows in which the slaves were conveyed by the Arab dealers, which resulted in many deaths, the most brutal murders were committed

by the slave-hunters. It must not be supposed that the Arabs were the only slave-traders on the Eastern Coast of Africa. The hunters employed by the Portuguese traders carried on their traffic half-way across the continent. He believed that at the present day slaves were freely exported to Brazil and Cuba. In the Man-yuema country women alone were in demand. Therefore, in obtaining a cargo of women slaves, the practice was to destroy the villages and shoot down the men in cold blood. He had himself seen a Portuguese trader come into a slave-market with fifty-two women, many of them carrying children in their arms, and others far advanced in pregnancy, who had been marched for many miles from the interior. These women represented thirty villages destroyed, the men having been butchered or left to starve in the jungle to which they had escaped. In the country in which he had travelled he believed that 30,000 or 40,000 people were destroyed; and, although these tribes were very prolific, the country was rapidly being depopulated. The Portuguese or quasi-Portuguese were far worse in their slave-rule even than the Arabs, and he had seen slaves in their possession literally broken down by the weight of manacles and irons with which they were loaded. Boys were freely engaged as crews by the Portuguese, under a nominal agreement which was a perfect swindle; for the moment they entered upon the service they were in reality slaves. The greatest slave-dealer in the world, however, was the Khedive of Egypt, and the condition of the slave in Egypt was worse than in any other part of the world. The railways, canals, and other so-called improvements in Egypt, were carried on by forced labour, and the poor slaves, after their work was finished, were driven back to their homes and severely mulcted in taxes. The condition of the slave-trade in Egypt was, in fact, such that there was no use in making a treaty with the Khedive. The only remedy was that the Khedive, as a slaveholder, should be obliterated. (Cheers.) Wherever the Turk ruled there would be slavery. He could bear emphatic testi-

mony that the Khedive, with a handful of Turks, was oppressing an industrious race in Egypt, and the Turks ought to be taken away. (Cheers.) One of the saddest things in connection with the African slave-trade was that wherever new countries were opened up by the explorer, the slave-trader followed. The Sultan of Zanzibar had done all he could to prohibit the trade, but his possessions only extended to a few towns on the mainland, and his influence was apt to be much exaggerated. A great proportion of the slaves now came down from Tanganyika and the country round Lake Nyassa. It had been suggested that a cordon of stations should be put down in these districts to prevent the traffic, and he believed that the suggestion was a practicable one; but he should be sorry to see the Sultan of Zanzibar's power extended to the interior of Africa. He was afraid to say how many slaves were annually deported from the district of Katongo, but he had himself met seven or eight caravans going up there simply to obtain slaves, and each would probably bring down two or three thousand. If England was in earnest in this matter we must put our foot down once for all and say there should be no slavery and stop it. (Loud cheers.)

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. ESPENT AND MR. HENDERSON ON THE LABOUR QUESTION IN JAMAICA.

ON the eve of going to press an authorised report of this correspondence came to hand, and we can give only a brief reference to it in this number of the *Reporter*. Without going into the collateral questions raised in the course of this correspondence, we note that the Rev. J. E. Henderson considers coolie immigration in the light of the great principles of justice and freedom as well as of historical sequences, while W. Bancroft Espent, Esq., persists in the demand—whether 100 native labourers can be at once secured by a planter provided sufficient inducements are held out in the shape of wages, hours, housing, &c?

This demand is founded upon a statement of the North Cornwall Baptist Association—that with sufficient inducements ample labour can be obtained. Mr. Henderson acknowledges that the *inducements* offered by Mr. Espent are ample. Yet he cannot advise any negroes to leave his own district and enter into Mr. Espent's service. Where-

upon Mr. Espent pronounces the *statement* of the Association to be *false*, being directly contrary to evidence. But this surely does not follow. Mr. Espent has for years been giving the natives a bad character. For years wages have been kept down to an average of 1s. for field hands. And now the tables are turned. Very reasonable offers are now made, and the desired result does not immediately take place. The reasons are sufficiently obvious, but we must defer these to our next issue.

DEFEAT OF THE THIRD EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION TO ABYSSINIA.

WE give an extract from the *Times* of October 12th, in which a correspondent describes the failure of the first and second attempts to invade and annex Abyssinian territory to the dominions of the Khedive. We have already given our readers the reports of eyewitnesses of the first and second, and these reports are corroborated by the following narrative of one of the officers who served in the second. It is obvious that this "officer" does not tell the *whole* truth, but only a part thereof:—

"There have been known two expeditions; it is the third which has just been organised, and of which your correspondent at Alexandria speaks. The first of these expeditions—that which met with the most terrible fate—was made in October, 1875. It consisted of 4,000 men, cavalry and infantry, with artillery. It was conducted by Colonel Arendrup. The history of this first expedition can be told in a few lines. The force commanded by Arendrup, at the moment when it was advancing on Adowa, without having taken the least precaution to cover itself, merely following the vanguard commanded by Arakel Bey, was surprised in the defile of Goundel, overwhelmed by a force ten times its number, exterminated without mercy from the first to the last—from Arakel Bey at the vanguard to Arendrup himself, from the General-in-Chief to the humblest soldier. The following dark incident detaches itself from this monotonous horror:—Among the volunteers in this expedition there was an officer, an Austrian gentleman, Count Lichy, in the vanguard, who was wounded and left for dead on the field of battle

Fifteen days after, M. de Sarseck, the French Consul-General at Massowah, wishing to see King John before going away for a holiday, went to Adoua and crossed the horrible defile of Goundel, where the massacred Egyptian army had been abandoned. Among the dead bodies M. de Sarseck discovered a man who was still breathing. M. de Sarseck approached him and gave him immediate assistance, and found that this sole survivor was Count de Lichy, and that he had been left as dead, had come to himself, and had lived for a fortnight in the midst of indescribable suffering, crawling from place to place, had supported himself on herbs and roots, drinking the water remaining in the flasks of his dead companions. M. de Sarseck had him conveyed to an Abyssinian village, and confided him to the care of one of the inhabitants, and then continued his journey with the intention of taking up the unfortunate Count on his return. During the interview he had with King John he narrated this touching incident, mentioned the village to which he had transported the wounded man, and asked permission to take him with him to Egypt, which was forthwith accorded him. But when, two days after, he came again to the village, he learnt that Abyssinian soldiers, armed with an order of King John, had taken possession of Count Lichy and carried him off. Since then he has never been heard of, and the only surviving witness of the deeds of the defile of Goundel has doubtless disappeared for ever.

"Three months after the second expedition was organised, with the mission of avenging the defeat and massacre of the previous one. This second expedition consisted of 6,000 men, I believe, under the command of Prince Hassan, with Ratib Pasha as Chief of the Staff, including Loring Pasha, an American officer, and several others of the same nationality. This expedition left Massowah on January 10, and towards the end of the same month reached Goura, between Massowah and Adoua, without having encountered the slightest obstacle. An entrenched camp was then established to let the soldiers rest without exposing them to surprise; for it

was known that King John, at the head of the armed population of Abyssinia, was moving about the provinces, because, according to the spies, he did not wish to disperse his army in face of an invasion of the country; because none of his provinces were rich enough to permit him to fix himself anywhere with his troops. The Egyptian expedition, without provisions, remained a month in the entrenched camp at Goura without seeing the enemy.

On the 17th of February they were informed by spies that King John and his army would have to pass between the entrenched camp and the defile of Cazachor. The Egyptian troops, then placed under the command of Osman Pasha, consisted of three batteries and nine battalions. The batteries, armed with mountain pieces, and seven battalions, left the entrenched camp, and took up their position six kilometres ahead, on the slope of two hills forming a valley, which, prolonging itself beyond them, becomes a plain of some miles in extent. The bed of a dried-up stream passes at the bottom of this valley and extends across the plain, cutting it in two. The Egyptians occupied both sides of this bed, and distributed themselves from the banks to about the middle of the heights.

"Facing them, at the extremity of the plain, they could see the Abyssinian army, which seemed to intend advancing to force the defile occupied by the Egyptians. Osman Pasha established his batteries at the head of his army, facing the plain and the Abyssinians. From time to time the latter attempted to break them, and each time they were repulsed by the Egyptian artillery, and already the Khedive's troops were shouting victory when the most horrible of surprises changed their shout of triumph into cries of despair. While the mass of the Abyssinian army was pretending to wish to force the defile, this was simply a *ruse de guerre*. Behind them soldiers had entered the dried-up bed of the stream; crawling along the ground, they got round the hills on which the Egyptian troops were massed. These hills they ascended from the opposite side, and then, once arrived at the summit by thousands, men and women, soldiers on foot

and on horseback, from behind rocks, trees, and hollows, rushed down with furious cries on the rear flanks of the Egyptians.

"Dreadful confusion ensued. The Egyptians made no attempt at resistance. Driven on both sides, they rushed into the dry channel; panic seized them, the artillerymen abandoned their pieces in the van and added to the confusion. The bulk of the Abyssinian army crossed the valley and engaged with the soldiers of the Nile. They fought hand to hand. Hassan Pasha with heroic efforts then succeeded in gathering around him some of the officers with 500 or 600 soldiers, who together, forming a compact body, fought their way through the Abyssinians to the entrenched camp. Of the seven battalions and three batteries this was all that survived.

"Rachid Bey, Giebri Bey, Colonel Deye, and many other foreign and Egyptian officers remained dead or wounded on the field of battle. The following day, while the entrenched camp, reduced in number to 2,000, was fortifying, the enemy did not appear. The day after that they were seen in the distance, but disappeared before the firing with which they were received. On the 19th—that is, the third day—at noon, they made an assault, but were repulsed. A cannon ball passed close to King John; he was thrown from his horse, and the assault was interrupted. On the fourth day the Egyptians succeeded in projecting explosive balls into the Abyssinian camp.

"This caused great terror, and the day after a messenger arrived from King John. 'It was time,' he said, 'to put an end to this struggle. He was ready to make honourable concessions and to come to a humane arrangement.' They required him to consent to a rectification of their frontiers, and to return the prisoners and arms; in fact, to act as if he had been defeated. Without waiting for answer, he disappeared with his army into the interior of the country, leaving the Egyptians absolute masters of the three provinces of Oconlongonsi, Goura, and Hamasen, and sending back the prisoners.

"Here ends the narrative of the second expedition. The Egyptians have been able

to imagine, or, at least, to say, that they remained masters of the situation thus occupied without resistance, and the three provinces; but it would seem King John has repeated what he did in the defiles of Goundel and Goura, and that after having given the Egyptians time to send a new expedition he has again attacked them with an immense army, and, according to reports, crushed them a third time."

This third attempt is reported—like the previous attempts—to have ended in complete disaster. The Egyptian forces were utterly routed. The port of Massowah, which the Khedive seized and retained as soon as the English army sent against Theodore had returned in triumph, has been taken by the Abyssinians, and, it is added, two Egyptian steamers captured. Further:—

"I have reason to believe the further report, that Ratib Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief, and his staff, have been taken prisoners close to Massowah, on the mainland.

"The drain on the country continues. Four thousand men and five hundred horses were despatched from Suez to Massowah in the last week. Recruiting is also reported, from good sources, to be actively going on in Darfur, that oasis in the desert which was at one time congratulated on its annexation to our civilised country. Disaster has caused the Egyptian soldiers to lose heart, and the cruelties inflicted on prisoners by the Abyssinians have not increased their liking to the war. Want of nerve on the part of the Egyptian officers is added as another reason why the superior numbers of the Abyssinians have triumphed over the better arms and discipline of the Khedive's troops.

"The old idea that the Abyssinians must be taught a lesson and shown how to give way to the civilised power of Egypt is quite exploded. The Khedive now only acts on the defensive, and would be glad to retire with honour and his favourite port of Massowah. An Abyssinian Prince arrived in Cairo some time ago ostensibly to make an alliance with the Khedive against his enemy, King John. But treachery was suspected, and the Prince remains in honourable detention in an Egyptian palace."

EGYPT AND ABYSSINIA.

IN order to clear away the mystification which has been designedly thrown around the Egyptian invasion of Abyssinia, and the defeats which have been announced as splendid victories, we gladly give insertion to the following letter to the *Times* by our friend Edmund Sturge, Esq. The letter referred to will be found on page 152.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

"Sir,—The letter of your Paris correspondent in the *Times* of to-day is deserving of a larger share of attention than it is likely to receive while the interest which centres in Turkey overshadows every other question.

"Early last December, having received confidential but reliable information that the Khedive was contemplating not only the invasion and annexation of Abyssinia, but the occupation of the seaboard of Eastern Africa as far as the Equator, a deputation from the Anti-Slavery Society waited on Lord Derby with a memorial, requesting him to remonstrate against those acts of aggression, knowing, as we did, despite of all professions to the contrary, that, with the extension of Mohammedan rule, slavery and slave-trading would be its inevitable concomitants.

"Your correspondent remarks on the deathlike silence which an iron despotism has been able to maintain in Egypt on everything which has passed in Abyssinia. Like the Bulgarian horrors, these events would still have been effectually screened from the eyes of Europe but for their transpiring through private and special channels.

"From information thus obtained we glean the following facts:—

"That the seizure of the Abyssinian seaboard, and especially of the Port of Massowah (after the British troops had left it) was an act of unwarrantable aggression on the part of Egypt, like that so recently attempted on the territories of the Seyyid of Zanzibar.

"That not less than 60,000 Egyptian troops left Suez in the several expeditions during the past year for the conquest of Abyssinia, of whom a large proportion never returned.

"That the King of Abyssinia will accept of no peace with Egypt which does not restore the ports of Massowah, &c., to their former possessors.

"That the policy and the practice of the rulers of both Northern and Southern Abyssinia have been to discountenance the slave-trade, which, as far as conducted within their borders, is done by Mussulman traders.

"That, on the information of the most competent persons, an extensive trade would soon be established with Abyssinia when no longer subject to the fiscal exactions imposed by Egypt.

"Our diplomatic action in Egypt (or, more correctly, inaction) has presented an unhappy likeness to that at Constantinople; the same ignorance of unpleasant realities, the same reluctance to transmit unwelcome facts to the Minister at home.

"It would seem to be the highest aim of our diplomacy 'to make things pleasant' for the passing hour, and to ignore coming catastrophe. It is, perhaps, idle to speculate how a timely official criticism, friendly, if severe, might have saved the Khedive from bankruptcy, and many an English householder from ruin. As it is, since the visit of Mr. Cave, Egypt has already sunk deeper in the abyss, and now the ablest efforts of Mr. Goschen must prove futile as long as the Khedive remains involved in costly and ambitious wars of conquest.

"I remain, Sir, truly,

"EDMUND STURGE.

"27, New Broad Street, Oct. 12."

THE TIMES ON THE PROFESSED ANTI-SLAVERY INVASIONS OF CENTRAL AFRICA.

"TOWARDS the close of last year, at the time when the Egyptian Government had become suddenly popular through the hopes founded on the purchase of the Suez Canal shares, a painful misgiving was created by the news of venturesome expeditions to distant lands. The annexation of Central Africa, the conquest of the continent as far as the Equator, was no new idea, but it presented itself to the minds of most people as a fanciful enterprise, not unmingled with charlatanism, such as an Oriental Sovereign inspired by European schemers might undertake, but on account neither of cost nor of danger worthy of serious notice. There had been two expeditions to the fountains of the everlasting Nile, and in both men and

money had been lost, with only the gain of a grandiloquent report, and an excuse for new pretensions. On a sudden the public became aware that the Egyptian Government had committed itself to something more serious than the despatch of a column against the feeble blacks of the Upper Nile, and that the State, just rescued from imminent financial danger, had entered on a war with a Power not essentially inferior to itself.

"The persons who felt most deeply were, no doubt, the creditors of the Khedive, but the first to manifest their opinions were some delegates of the religious and philanthropic world. A deputation of the Anti-Slavery Society waited on the Minister to complain that the ruler of Egypt cherished an insatiable ambition. His emissaries had carried on a relentless war against the unoffending tribes of the interior. They had attained a very incomplete success, yet the catalogue of their barbarities, as related by themselves, could hardly be excused even if they had brought millions within the pale of civilisation. On the Eastern Coast of Africa the Khedive was usurping the rights which belonged to independent princes or chieftains. The obscure rulers of wild tribes on the seaboard could make no protest, and it was always possible for the Khedive to assert some claim which no one could disprove, or to allege some aggression on the part of people so simple and barbarous. But here, also, a voice was raised which commanded attention. The Seyyid of Zanzibar, in published protests addressed indirectly to the British people, declared that he was one of the victims of the Khedive's ambition. The Egyptian Government denied that there was ground for the Seyyid's remonstrances, but took care to recall the vessels which were supposed to threaten the independent shores of the Indian Ocean. But the most important subject that could be brought to the notice of an English Minister was undoubtedly the Expedition to Abyssinia. Both on political and on humanitarian grounds the enterprise was objectionable in the extreme. It was one in which success would be more calamitous than failure."—*The Times*, Oct. 13, 1876.

PUERTO RICO.

THE Consular Report from Porto Rico, bearing date May, 1875, is still satisfactory so far as the conduct of the emancipated slaves is concerned, but nearly the whole of the Report is devoted to a defence of the contract system introduced under a Reglamento by the present Governor, General Sanz.

It will be recollected that when the slaves were emancipated, in 1873, Consul Cowper, the head of the British Consulate department at the time, declared emancipation to be "an entire success." General Primo de Rivera, the Governor, gave his unqualified testimony to the same fact, and the President of the Audencia, the highest tribunal in the Island, in a public document, corroborated this statement.

But when the enlightened Governor General Rivera was superseded, and General Sanz, who had so remarkably distinguished himself in Madrid by his efforts to prevent the abolition of slavery from being carried, took his place, he introduced the contract system, which, notwithstanding all that has been asserted to the contrary, we hold to have been a retrograde step. It was, in fact, the introduction of forced labour in the place of that which had been made free, and therefore a return to at least one of the conditions of slavery.

We believe that this measure was not necessary, and that, whatever may be said in attempts to defend it, it will be followed by the usual consequences of enforced servitude, the degradation of labour and a decrease in its supply.

We have always regretted that Consul Cowper, who had had so much experience, should have left the Island when he did.

His successor, Consul Pauli, was not appointed till August of the year which followed emancipation, and Vice-Consul Gibbons not till September of the same year. As neither of these gentlemen were in office at the time, some allowance ought, perhaps, to be made for them; but in their zeal to defend the contract system no justification can be made for such a statement as this, which we find in page 333 of the Blue-book: "When the emancipation

was decreed, 1st April, 1873, the 'libertos' were allowed to go altogether free; most of them left off work altogether, and only returned on the condition of exorbitant wages, paid by the planters to get off their crop."

In number 259, Consul Pauli strongly reflects upon the Anti-Slavery Society for admitting into the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* the letter of a correspondent which he says contained "statements absolutely false." On referring to the letter, we observe some remarks which, had they been properly noticed at the time, would not have been admitted, but the letter was written by a Puerto Rico gentleman of high character, and information from other quarters make it impossible for us to coincide with the sweeping condemnation of our consul. If he will take the trouble to refer to the despatches for Cuba, by our able Commissary-Judge in that Island, he will not fail to see something of the dangers and evils of the contract system.

By his further remarks Consul Pauli appears to hold that the political conduct of a Governor is not matter for criticism.

He seems to forget that the political acts of a public man are public property. But perhaps we misunderstand the Consul, which we desire not to do.

CUBA.—SPANISH MODES OF EMANCIPATION.

THE following is taken out of Blue-Book, recently publishing correspondence on the slave-trade (pp. 327-329, No. 4, 1876.) They show what adepts men may become in using the language of freedom in order to cover the continuance of slavery:—

ACTING COMMISSARY-JUDGE CRAWFORD
TO THE EARL OF DERBY.—(Received
October 2nd.)

Havana, September 1, 1875.

MY LORD,—I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship a translation of a statement published in the *Havana Gazette* of the 14th ult. showing the number of persons who have acquired their freedom under the provisions of the law of 4th July, 1870, known as "Moret's Law," for the gradual abolition of slavery in Cuba.

This statement, which is far from complete, gives the total of 50,046 persons, of which 32,813 have been born since 17th September, 1868; 13,740 had completed their sixteenth year; 3,192 are emancipados, and 301 have received their freedom for services under the Spanish flag.

I place no dependence upon these figures, for your Lordship will notice that the statement contains no information whatever regarding the city and jurisdiction of Havana. This is not surprising, considering that the "Junta de Libertos" (Board of Freedmen), and the "Junta de Colonizacion" (Board of Colonization), are composed of noted slave-traders.

As long as these unfortunate beings are subjected to such men as compose the above Board, they will be treated precisely as the poor emancipados have been; and if the Spanish Government is in earnest, and wishes that the freedom of the negro slaves, under the law, shall be a reality, it ought to suppress at once these Boards or Juntas, which exercise a baneful influence, and are neither more nor less than local slave-trading institution on a grand scale.

The negroes are quite able to take care of themselves as far as their wages are concerned, and it is totally unnecessary to bind them down to perpetual drudgery through contracts which they cannot read, and which are really and truly titles of ownership, issued by these obnoxious Boards to those persons who choose to pay for them—in fact, the emancipado system over again.

I do not mean to say that there should be no law to prevent vagrancy or idleness, but there should be no selling of contracts, no consignment to endless slavery, as is at present the case.

The last census of 1867 give the coloured population of Cuba as follows:—

	Free.		Slaves.
Eastern Department ...	96,058	...	66,235
Western Department...	129,880	...	313,288
<hr/>			
Total ...	225,938	...	379,523

The insurrection broke out in 1868, and one of the first acts of the Cuban insurgents was to declare the freedom of their slaves.

It is very difficult to get at anything like an accurate estimate of slaves in Cuba to-day, but there is one thing quite certain, and that is that if the Cuban insurgents hold

their own, and are able to make further progress in the fertile districts of the Ciuces Villas, and towards the Western portion of this island, the emancipation of the slaves will follow as a matter of course, and in such a rude manner as will entail with it the probable ruin of Cuba.

Spain has thrown away the opportunity of blotting out slavery here. She scorned the proposals made by the Cuban Commissioners who went to Madrid in 1866; a proposal or plea which, had it been accepted or carried out, would have emancipated the slaves by this time, and would have produced over £12,000,000 of indemnity, not to speak of the probable prevention of the struggle which commenced in 1868, and which now so seriously threatens the welfare of the Island.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

ACTING COMMISSARY-JUDGE CRAWFORD
TO THE EARL OF DERBY.—(Received
October, 2).

(Extract.)

Havana, September 6th, 1875.

I have the honour of reporting to your Lordship that a Mr. Secchi, has petitioned the Government here to allow him to import 600 Indians from Venezuela on the same terms as the Chinese; that is under contract for eight years.

The "Junta de Colonizacion," whose Vice-President is Don Francisco Ybanez, has reported favourably of Mr. Secchi's scheme, but only under the following conditions:—

1. That Mr. Secchi shall satisfy the Spanish Diplomatic or Consular Agent in Venezuela that his Government authorises the emigration of those persons who wish to dedicate themselves to agricultural labours in Cuba.

2. That, as a preliminary, and previous to the carrying out of this matter, the Spanish agents shall deliver to the Government of Venezuela, under acknowledgment, a copy of the decrees which regulate all matters of colonization in Cuba.

3. That the Spanish Consuls shall neither countenance nor authorise the shipment of colonists unless they present their contract with Mr. Secchi, in which they declare that they are aware of the Spanish law that obliges those so contracted to dedicate themselves to agricultural pursuits during the

entire term of their agreement, and to re-contract themselves or to quit the island at the expiry of said agreement.

4. That no shipment be sanctioned unless at least one-third of the emigrants are women.

5. That whether Mr. Secchi keeps these colonists for his own estate, or transfers their contracts to other planters, they will always have the right to change owners whenever they make justifiable complaint to the authorities, but they must continue in field labour, and not take to farming for their own account, or be employed as domestics or artisans.

6. That under no circumstances shall the individuals of the same family be separated, neither shall they ever lose the right of being contracted together.

With these prudent restrictions, which guarantee the interests of all parties, the fears and opposition of those persons who see danger in the heterogenous nature of races in our island will be conciliated, and brought into harmony with the constantly increasing want of hands for agriculture and the cultivation of sugar.

According to the ideas of the "Junta de Colonizacion," as represented by M. Yabney, the great desideratum is to get hands, no matter where, and to bind them down to endless, or at least life-lasting slavery. They must contract and re-contract themselves over and over again for field labour only. They must not dream of bettering their condition, but, as serfs, they must drag out their miserable lives. With such inviting conditions can it be wondered at that the planters of the Island of Cuba have seen the stoppage of Chinese emigration and the importation of Indians from Yucatan? The marvel is that they still dream of getting a supply of labourers anywhere on such shameful terms.

RECONQUEST OF CUBA.

"THE Spanish Government has determined upon a final effort for the reconquest of Cuba. It has raised £600,000 upon the security of the revenues of the island, and had despatched there 20,000 more soldiers, the regiments for the service being chosen by lot. The command, and with it, it is believed, the Captain-Generalship, has been

bestowed upon General Martinez Campos, an able general, and so vehement an Isabellino that his influence is considered disastrous in the Army. The new Captain-General is not authorised to offer any terms except an amnesty, but it is supposed in Spain that the leaders have become hopeless, and will be ready, on certain conditions, to leave the island. There will then still remain the negro question to be settled, and the restoration of the finances, which are in almost hopeless confusion."—*Spectator*.

REPORT OF THE CHINESE COMMISSION TO CUBA.

In reporting to the Tsung-li Yarmen (the Chinese Foreign Office) the results of their inquiry into the condition of the Chinese in Cuba, the Commissioners Ch'en, Lan-pin, Macpherson (English) and Huber (French) state that: "Our stay in Cuba, commencing on the 29th of the first moon (17th March), ended on the 23rd of the third moon (8th May). Almost every Chinese met during this period was or had been undergoing suffering, and suffering was the purport of almost every word heard; and these men were seen by us all, and these words were heard by us all.

"One thousand one hundred and seventy-six depositions have been collected, and 85 petitions, supported by 1,675 signatures, have been received, of which copies and (English) translations are appended.

"It appears that of the Chinese labourers who have proceeded to Cuba, eight or nine of every ten have been conveyed there against their will."

The total number landed in Cuba was reported by the British Consul General at Havana to reach some 142,422, of whom 43,273 sailed from Amoy, Swatow, Hong Kong, Canton, Whampoa, Annan, Manila; whilst from Macao all the rest were obtained. These latter shipments took place in violation of an Emigration Convention, "by which Macao is excluded from the localities at which the engagement of labourers is permitted; whilst, as proved by the depositions and petitions, the circumstances that have attended the introduction into Cuba of the majority of the Chinese are a breach of the 10th clause of the Spanish

Treaty of the 3rd year of T'ungchih, which is to the effect that *Spain agrees not to afford shelter to Chinese criminals, or decoy or sell any subjects of China.*"

In regard to agreements, "The Petition of Chu Chi-hsün and ten others states: We were decoyed into foreign houses at Macao, in which we were forced to sign contracts, after which we were placed on board ship and conveyed to Havana." Another witness declares that he "was beaten with great severity, and, the suffering being unendurable, I could not but accept the contract, and, with suppressed grief, proceeded on board, where were 600 others, all wronged in like manner." Scarcely any trouble was taken to make the coolies understand the terms of the agreement which they were compelled to sign, and in some cases clauses were omitted in the interpretation to the coolies, and Annan or Singapore was stated to be the destination instead of Havana. One hundred and sixty-six witnesses declare that they were thus deceived, and, to avoid immediate death, affixed their signatures, and embarking, as they thought, for Annan, were conveyed to Havana. Some 345 coolies declare that the contracts were not even read to them before they were compelled to sign them; and all the coolies affirm that they did not understand the meaning of the contract. In reference to the voyage, it is affirmed that, of the 140,000 Chinese who sailed for Cuba, more than 16,000 died during the voyage. The horrors of the Middle Passage are repeated with frightful frequency on these voyages. In despair hundreds leaped overboard, preferring death to such living torture. On their arrival at Cuba the story of wrong increases in intensity and horror. Contrary to treaty, the coolies are not hired, but are sold into slavery, so that "suicides by hanging on trees, by drowning, by swallowing opium, and by leaping into the sugar cauldrons," were frequent incidents on the sugar estates of Cuba. It is impossible to give anything like an idea of the barbarities recorded in this report. The nation that can tolerate such atrocities ought not to be allowed a place in the list of civilised nations.

THE NEW OR THIRD FUGITIVE-SLAVE CIRCULAR.

THE following instructions respecting the reception of fugitive slaves on board Her Majesty's ships have just been issued:—

LORD TENTERDEN TO THE SECRETARY
TO THE ADMIRALTY.

Foreign Office, August 10th, 1876.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 23rd of December last, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying draft of instructions to be issued to the commanders of Her Majesty's ships and vessels with regard to the reception of fugitive slaves.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

TO ALL COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, CAPTAINS,
COMMANDERS, AND COMMANDING OFFICERS OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS.

The following instructions are to be considered as superseding all previous instructions as to the receipt of fugitive slaves:—

1. In any case in which you have received a fugitive slave into your ship, and taken him under the protection of the British flag, whether within or beyond the territorial waters of any State, you will not admit or entertain any demand made upon you for his surrender on the ground of slavery.

2. It is not intended, nor is it possible, to lay down any precise or general rule as to the cases in which you ought to receive a fugitive slave on board your ship. You are as to this to be guided by considerations of humanity, and these considerations must have full effect given to them whether your ship is on the high seas or within the territorial waters of a State in which slavery exists; but in the latter case you ought, at the same time, to avoid conduct which may appear to be in breach of international comity and good faith.

3. If any person, within territorial waters, claims your protection on the ground that he is kept in slavery contrary to treaties with Great Britain, you should receive him until the truth of his statement is examined into. This examination should be made, if possible, after communication with the nearest British consular authority, and you should be guided in your subsequent proceedings by the result.

4. A special report is to be made of every case of a fugitive slave received on board your ship.

Whilst it must be acknowledged that this Circular is in several respects less objectionable than the two which have preceded it, we regret to say it is by no means satisfactory as a whole.

The first clause is good, also the first part of the second, and we submit that these together would have answered every good purpose. But the last words of the second, and the whole of the third, are highly objectionable. They give a sanction and pay a homage to slavery which it has not been the custom of this country to render, and against which the people of this country, from one end to the other, have protested with singular unanimity.

On these grounds we earnestly desire that those parts of the Circular to which we have alluded as objectionable may be withdrawn with as little delay as possible.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS.

AT the meetings of the African Congress at the Palace, under the presidency of the King, there were present about forty members of different nationalities, African travellers, and others who have distinguished themselves in geographical research. The representatives of England, who had been invited by His Majesty to attend, were Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir H. Rawlinson, Admiral Sir L. Heath, Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Harry Verney, Captain Verney, Dr. Cameron, Sir John Kennaway, Sir T. F. Buxton, Colonel Grant, and Mr. Mackinnon. France is represented by Admiral Baron de la Ronciere, Comte de Lesseps, and M. Maunoir; Germany, by Baron de Richthofen, Dr. Nachtigal, Dr. Schweinfurth and M. Rohlf; Austria, by Baron Hoffmann, Comte Zitchey, M. Von Hochstetter and Lieutenant Lux; Italy, by Commanders Negri and Correnti; Russia, by M. de Semenoff. The great question before the Congress was the opening of Africa to commerce and civilisation, and the best means of bringing this about, was discussed by an assembly well qualified to arrive at a practical opinion.

During the proceedings which followed,

Colonel Grant, Commander Cameron and Dr. Schweinfurth related their experiences of African travel, and Sir Bartle Frere demanded that slavery should be abolished. He approved of the idea of founding stations in the interior of the country, and suggested that it would be highly conducive to the ends in view that some enterprising travellers should settle in Africa and civilise the chiefs and people.

Two suggestions were submitted, and that adopted was to found settlements converging to the central portions of the Continent from Loanda on the West, Zanzibar on the East, and the basin of the Upper Nile.

His Majesty announced that a promise of £1,000 in aid of the scheme that should be adopted had been received from Paris.

An International Committee was appointed to carry out the scheme.

JAMAICA.—MEMORIAL TO SIR WILLIAM GREY.

THE following memorial was presented to Sir William Grey by the missionaries, ministers, teachers and catechists in Jamaica, labouring under the auspices of the London Missionary Society:—

“His Excellency, Sir WILLIAM GREY, K.C.S.I., Governor of Jamaica, and its Dependencies; and President of the Legislative Council, and other Honorable Members of the Council.

“May it please Your Excellency, and Honorable Members of the Legislative Council,—

“We, the undersigned missionaries, ministers, teachers and catechists connected with the London Missionary Society, and having under our care several thousands of the labouring population of the island of Jamaica, approach your Honorable Board with feelings of loyal attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen, and of sincere respect to you who represent her in this island.

“It was with much concern, and deep regret, that we heard of the provisions of the Immigration Bill, which has recently passed your Honorable Board, and by which it is proposed that *one-third* of the expense of importing coolies into the

colony shall henceforth be paid out of the *General Revenue*, and most firmly but respectfully submit that the measure is unjust in principle, and will be injurious in practice.

"*Because the whole community will be taxed for the special benefit of one particular class*; in addition to the amount which is annually applied to the Immigration Fund from *Export Duties*, but which form an important part of the *General Revenue*; together with the demand which will be made upon the public purse, to repay the loans which have been obtained for immigration purposes.

"*Because*, however plausible the argument may appear, that there are certain times in the year when the planters could advantageously employ more creole labour than they can secure, yet there are other seasons of the year when the creole labourers would be glad to be engaged upon the estates, which however at such times do not furnish employment for them, and it is manifestly unfair to tax the labourer to bring competitors to the labour market:—and

Because, from the character of the immigrants, and from the small proportion of females imported into the colony, immorality and crime of the most revolting description are practised to an alarming extent; therefore, your Memorialists strongly object to the Immigration Bill which has passed your Honorable Council, and earnestly trust that the measure will not obtain the sanction of the Home Government.

"As in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray."

Signed by the missionaries, ministers, catechists, and teachers connected with the L. M. S. in Jamaica.

THE PLANTERS' NEW BILL. — A SINGULAR ILLUSTRATION OF CLASS LEGISLATION.

THE petition to Sir William Grey, K.C.S.I., presented by the missionaries, ministers, teachers, and catechists of the London Missionary Society in Jamaica, is an earnest and manly protest against this gross instance of class legislation. We describe the bill as the planters' bill, for who else would have thought of such a

measure? No other class of the population feel any want of labour, and their need arises solely out of their determination to keep down the price of labour, and to make it compulsory through the contract system. It is extraordinary how the representations put forth by the advocates of the bill can, for a single moment, blind any one to its patent injustice.

We can easily conceive that the Colonial Office, amid the pressure of its duties, of the demand upon it from the numerous colonies of the British Empire, should overlook the special injustice of this measure; but it will surprise us not a little if Sir William Grey recommends it to the approval of the Colonial Office. Such recommendation would indicate how unconsciously a Governor can be influenced and biased in judgment and action by those with whom his position and official duty bring him into frequent and familiar contact.

No doubt it would be a very good thing to increase the population of Jamaica. There is ample room for such increase. But Jamaica is not the only portion of the British Empire where an increase of population would be very convenient. Why should the whole island be taxed to provide this increase, and to provide it in a way that has not increased the exports, while it does bring competitors into the labour market partly at the cost of native labourers? Why should the whole island be taxed to enrich the few? The advantage to any class of creole or negro labourers is very trifling, and does not lighten the taxation. We assert—and challenge proof to the contrary—that coolie immigration is not required, while it tends to keep down the price of labour to a starvation point—a point easily reached, were it not that negroes can procure land and labour on them on their own account.

Coolie immigration is not required. There may be planters (very few indeed) who cannot secure sufficient field labour. So there are farmers in England who are often sadly put to it for field hands. Yet whoever thought of devoting any portion of English export duty to make life easier for the farmer? In England the farmer who cannot find labour at a price remunerative to himself comes to grief, or has to try his chance elsewhere. In Jamaica the planter who cannot find labour at his own price

appeals to the Governor for help; and as the planting interest is the only one really represented in the Legislative Council, so he has his own way in spite of the protests and the interests of the great mass of the population.

The planters as a body do not want coolies. Even now, with all the extraordinary efforts made by a few active planters to persuade their fellow-planters to employ coolies—*not half the planters employ coolies or need them.*

Some time ago, the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens found great difficulty in procuring sufficient labour—during a busy season—and then he employed a few coolies. Higher wages were offered in vain to the creole and negro—at all events, such was the representation. The agitating planter raised his voice in triumph—exclaiming that Government itself could not obtain labour—even by the inducement of higher wages, and wages promptly paid—which probably are very strong inducements indeed in Jamaica. Was not the necessity obvious? Coolies were a necessity. Only the fanatics of Exeter Hall and of the Anti-Slavery Society would venture to maintain the contrary. Well, the case, for a while, seemed demonstrated. Just enough time was given to allow agitating planters to bring this demonstration into the legislature, and to circulate this “convincing fact” through the press, seasoning their speech with the personal spice of colonial newspapers. The shout of triumph was *loud*, and probably would never have died away from the hills and vales of Jamaica, had not “*another convincing fact*” turned up, and showed how illogical was the reasoning, and how premature the triumph. How is it that our “*agitating planters*” did not refer to the ensuing report from the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens? Why is it these gentlemen, who seek so earnestly to benefit the whole community, while they increase their own gains, did not quote in their frequent speeches that next report? Because in it the Superintendent stated that he had discovered his want of labourers arose entirely from the fact that his need was not known to the working-classes of the island. As soon as it became known, crowds of willing labourers flocked to the Gardens—and he was obliged to turn *hundreds* away—some of whom had come more

than twenty miles to procure employment? The coolies were not required after all—and hundreds sought employment who could not get it. Given a fair wage and prompt payment, with kind treatment, and there is no want—and has not been for many a year past—of labour in Jamaica.

We must express our tender sympathy for the *agitators*, whose triumph was so cruelly turned into defeat and shame. They are human, and we sympathise with suffering humanity everywhere—although an effort is needed to awaken sympathy when the defeat has befallen those advocating selfish purposes and class legislation?

In the next place, one design of coolie immigration is to keep down the price of labour. The wage of a field hand, as shown by official statistics, is, on an average, one shilling per day—and, at that miserable level, it would be surprising if field hands could be easily obtained by a planter whose only relation to those he employed was that of paymaster.

Some masters may obtain labour even when the wage is very low; but in all such cases it is the *man*, not the *wage*, that attracts the labourer. But how is the wage affected by coolie emigration? Let us look into this point, for it has been so speciously covered over with figures and misrepresentations as to suggest some motive in this concealment. No doubt the great motive lies there. A coolie receives 1s. per working day. His master pays 30s. capitation tax per annum; and for such hospital service as he may require, at 1s. 6d. per diem. The planters’ reckoning is £10 10s. per annum. The *housing*, which is very primitive we may exclude altogether, as it would be for the use of negroes as well as of the coolies. So here we have our pretty little sum.

Wage per week (six working days)	6	0
Capitation tax (per week)	...	0 7
		6 7

To this must be added the hospital service when it is required. It may not, in any given case, be required at all. Thus this system of coolie contracts enables a planter to secure labour at about 7s. per week per head, with a small risk of the cost of hospital service. There is also a small rent-charge for the maintenance of hospitals, which amounts to only £1,200 for the whole island. Now suppose there

Were no coolies imported, then the price of labour would be something like 2s. or 2s. 6d. per diem, so that the planter gains the difference between 7s. and 12s.—or 5s. every week per labourer—say 5s. per week, or £12 10s. per annum. Take a hundred labourers, and he gains £12 10s. multiplied by 100—£1,250. This will leave an ample margin for hospital service and for the rent-charge on hospitals; and, by keeping the price of labour at 1s. per diem for field-hands, enable the planter to keep a round sum of money in his pocket every year. No doubt, as Lord Carnarvon suggested, the planters know their own interests very well, and no wonder they advocate coolie immigration when they may vote £40,000 or £45,000 per annum out of Island Revenue (including, of course, export duties) to keep down the price of labour.

That we have not put the natural price of field hands too high, we may learn from a comparison with the wages now given in Puerto Rico.

In Blue-Book (No. 4, 1876, Slave-Trade), Puerto Rico, Consul Pauli stated that "the *liberto*" (who is simply a slave legally free, but compelled to work under the contract system) "receives the *current* wages, and is paid for overtime, which is voluntary. The working hours are from sunrise to sunset, and he is not worked on Sundays, or on the principal feasts of the Church. He receives from 50 to 62 cents per day, or say from 2s. to 2s. 6d., and can make, with overtime, as much as 4s. 6d. In many places one meal per day is given, and he is housed free of cost" (p. 330). There would be no lack of labourers in Jamaica if the planters there offered the negro or creole the same price for his labour as is given at Puerto Rico. Another quotation, from the official report of Consul Pauli, deserves the consideration of the Colonial Office, when urged to allow another £20,000 per annum from the Island Revenue. "The temptation to idleness is easily indulged, as their (*liberto*'s) wants are but few, and the wages in proportion very high. For this reason, next to the '*liberto*,' the *British negro labourer is preferred, as they generally come here to avail themselves of the higher rate of wages, and save money, and only require an occasional holiday besides Sunday!*" (p. 331).

Another question worthy of serious con-

sideration is this: Why should coolies be imported from so great a distance as India, while field labourers are greatly in excess at the neighbouring island of Barbadoes?

If there must be emigration, why not bring the surplus population from Barbadoes, at a small cost, instead of at an enormous outlay from India? It would be cheaper for the planters to hire their own labour in Barbadoes, and bring them over at their own cost, and thus meet their own needs, benefit the Barbadian surplus labourer, and deliver themselves as a class from the odium of gross class legislation. Surely British negroes need not emigrate, at their own cost, to the Spanish possession of Puerto Rico or Cuba, for the mere inducement of a higher wage. The whole difficulty has been created by the unwillingness to pay a proper wage in Jamaica. If it be said that the price of sugar will not allow of such wages, it is enough to reply that, in spite of the high price of labour in Cuba, and the contract system at Puerto Rico, sugar does pay in those islands, and why not in Jamaica?

It is true these export duties are by Island law devoted to emigration purposes. It is also true that these laws were formulated and framed by those who represent the planter class, all others having in a Crown colony no representation whatever. This alienation of revenue to class purposes was submitted to as a compromise, not as a just arrangement. Now, however, that the planters have reopened the whole question by their claim for £20,000 more (at least) per annum, they have no right to complain if their right even to export duties is emphatically denied.

DEFICIENCY OF IMMIGRATION FUNDS IN JAMAICA.

By the last advices from Jamaica we have the annual statement of the "Immigration Funds," which, as our readers are aware, are kept entirely distinct from the so-called "General Revenues" of the island. The Colonial Secretary, after stating that the general income (excluding export duties) exceeded the general expenditure by £4,359, gave an account of the "Immigration Fund."

The estimated income was as follows:—

Export duties	£18,000
Capitation tax	7,048
Union hospitals	6,200
Rent-charge on union hos- pitals	1,254
Balance of loan	8,800
Total	£41,302

The estimated expenditure was—

Charges of debt	£17,220
Salaries	6,419
Union Hospital	10,705
Medical attendance	2,800
Return passages	5,837
Buildings	1,248
Advanced by Treasury ...	2,164
Total	£46,393

This shows a deficit against the Immigration Fund of £5,091. In former years this deficiency was met by a fresh loan; but now the limit of borrowing allowed by law has been reached. That limit was £150,000; so then there is this heavy burden of £150,000 against the fund, besides a deficiency in the estimate of the year to the extent of £5,091. It was to meet this deficiency that the new Bill was passed, and which now awaits the sanction of the Colonial Office. By that new Bill *one-third* of the annual total expenditure for immigration purposes is to be taken from the *general revenues* of the island. No increase of debt is to be permitted. The period for the repayment of the loans is to be extended; and should any deficiency still appear *it is to be met during the same year in some way which it was most convenient not to specify*. We will not at present characterise this very modest dip into the island purse for the benefit of about 100 sugar estates. We should like very much to know how many persons hold these 100 estates. The 240 estates of the island are held, we are told, by 122 individuals; so we should not be surprised to find that these 100 estates which employ coolies belong to some 50 persons. There are 140 estates worked without coolies, and it is a gross injustice to *their* owners to tax them for labour which they do not require; and we are not surprised to find that there are planters who are as strongly opposed to coolie immigration as the working classes, whose labour is competed with and lowered in value. Why do these planters permit

this gross wrong? The Colonial Secretary proposes to advance the £5,000 deficiency from the general revenues of the island, subject to the approval of the Colonial Office; and a hint is given that the borrowing power is to be increased. One thing is quite clear—that coolie immigration is burdening the island with debt; that this debt increases, in spite of sundry repayments, year by year. At this moment the debt exceeds *one-fourth* of the total island revenue, and every year must add to the burden. And all this is done to supply, say, some fifty gentlemen with labour on such terms as pleases them.

Now there is one very extraordinary omission in the above estimated expenditure by the Colonial Secretary. Not one shilling is provided for the importation of a single coolie during the year. Forty-six thousand pounds are to be spent, and not a single fresh coolie is to appear as representing that enormous outlay. That is a fact which demands investigation. This fund has got into such a condition that £46,000 has to be spent this year without allowing one shilling for a fresh coolie, while it provides £5,837 for return passages. It is impossible to pronounce a severer censure on the scheme than this fact involves. Yet we have another *fact* which adds more and more to the mystery. There are some 600 coolies *applied for by planters for the current year*. Notice has already been sent, and in due course the coolies will arrive. How will this expenditure be *met*? Why was not their passage, &c., included in the year's estimate? Six hundred is a small number for one year. Rarely has there been so little demand for coolies. Why is the demand so low this year? Is it to bring the estimate of income nearer that of expenditure, and so make things pleasant, while the new Bill is pressed upon the acceptance of the Colonial Office?

SHAMEFUL CONDITION OF THE TOWN HALL GAOL IN BARBADOES.

In an able letter addressed to the *Times* (September 18) we have a description of (so-called) justice as administered in the courts of law in Barbadoes. The partiality of the Chief Justice was shown in an unmistakable manner. Some 337 coloured people were in prison, awaiting their trial

on various charges connected with the recent riots—most, if not all of them, for larcenies of fowls and sheep and potatoes. The Chief Justice refused to release any of these prisoners on bail, and they would, in consequence of the Court rising for four months, be kept in over-crowded prisons, without any trial, and in direct violation of English law, for that period. On the other hand, a Mr. Edward Parris, a *white planter*, charged with shooting with intent to murder during the riots, had been let out on bail; and on application his bail was actually prolonged so as to cover the period till the Court met again. This gross violence of the equality of all men before the law may show the way in which things are done in this constitutional colony. During the four months the white man who shot a native is allowed to live in his own house and enjoy his liberty till his bail expires; the blacks, who stole potatoes, &c., are kept in prison the whole period, till they can be tried. Most of them are confined in the

TOWN HALL GAOL.

"Owing to the discussion in court as to the crowded and dangerous condition of the prisons, I visited the Town Hall Gaol, where the bulk of the prisoners are confined. This prison consists of the basement story of the court-house, and of a few small detached cells used for sick prisoners. On descending a flight of steps you enter a long and narrow corridor, on each side of which are two larger cells or wards, and two smaller ones. The cells are about five feet below the level of the ground, and, as they are little more than seven feet high, the ventilation is very bad indeed, the only means of ventilation being by small and closely-barred windows. In each of the four larger cells from 30 to 40 prisoners are confined, and from 12 to 18 in each of the smaller cells. There were more than 200 prisoners in the Town Hall Gaol when I visited it. The total cubic space of the eight cells or wards in which these prisoners were confined is 26,788 cubic feet, or about 128 cubic feet to each of the prisoners then confined in them. In this climate 600 cubic feet is the recognised amount of space that ought to be allowed to each prisoner. When I entered the corridor there was a Babel of noise from the prisoners shouting and talking. The warder who accompanied us called for silence, and it was promptly obtained. During the greater part of the twenty-four hours the prisoners are not subjected to any supervision. The warders do not patrol the corridor, and rarely enter it. I visited the prison in the afternoon when the cells had been cleansed, and the prisoners recently

brought in from exercise. The stench was even then sickening. In the morning, when the warders enter the corridor to open the cells, the atmosphere is so foul that they are forced to retreat into the open air before they open all the cells. The prisoners in the cells on the leeward side suffer most severely, as they receive all the foul air generated in the cells on the windward side. Four years ago an official report was made by the Provost-Marshal—to Lord Kimberley, who was then Secretary for the Colonies—on the unsatisfactory and unhealthy state of this gaol, but no improvement has been effected. Each prisoner receives a blanket, and they sleep huddled together on the floor of the cells. Owing to the structure of the prison none of those arrangements which decency demands, or which are required for sanitary purposes, can be carried out. In each cell or ward two large open tubs are placed, one containing drinking water, the second for all other purposes. No classification of prisoners is attempted; the youngest culprit in custody for a venial offence and the most hardened malefactor are confined together. The nameless horrors that occur there make this prison a blot on the English rule, and a disgrace to Barbadoes. For a long series of years successive Secretaries of State have condemned the Town Hall Gaol, and urged that it should be replaced by a suitable prison built in some other locality. The House of Assembly have not, however, placed at the disposal of the Executive the necessary funds for that purpose."

Our readers will be glad to learn that a judge has already been sent out to try these prisoners, and is probably now engaged in this duty. The House of Assembly, on the application from the Colonial Office made through Governor Hennessy, declined to vote the sum needful to pay the expenses of the new judge until his task was done, and until the House should approve the way in which it was done.

Reviews.

Turkey and Egypt; Past and Present State in relation to Africa. By Joseph Cooper. (S. Harris & Co., 5, Bishopsgate Street Without). Price sixpence. This is a tract for the times, and deserves the attention of all who wish to understand the Eastern Question. It is marked by great ability—by thorough earnestness—and is alike in its statements and in its language characterised by its temperance and its fidelity. It shows the practicability of the abolition of slavery throughout Turkey and Egypt, and calls on the English Government to

have more regard to humanity than to its supposed selfish interests—in one word to do justice—remembering that, as the Poet Laureate puts it:

“Not once or more in this our island story
Has the path of duty been the way to glory.”

We heartily commend Mr. Cooper's tract to the careful consideration of all our readers. Copies may be had at our offices.

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“I give to the TREASURER for the time being, or to the person for the time being acting as such, of THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, and whose receipt I direct shall be a sufficient discharge for the same, the sum of £ sterling [free of Legacy Duty], to be applied for the general purposes of the said Society, to be fully paid out of such part of my personal estate as is legally applicable to such purpose.”

[Devises of land, or money charged on land, or secured on mortgage of land or tenements, are void; but money or stock may be given by Will, if not directed to be laid out in land.]

LONDON: Printed by BARRETT, SONS & Co., Crown Works, 21, Seething Lane, and published by ELLIOT STOCK, 62, Paternoster Row, London, and at the Offices of the Society, 27, New Broad Street, in the Parish of St. Botolph Bishopsgate, in the City of London.—NOVEMBER 1, 1876.

Registered for transmission abroad.